

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) announced today that the Leeds Fire Department is receiving a \$42,424 federal grant to improve firefighting operations.

"This federal grant will offer better protection for firefighters and those they serve in Leeds," said Bachus. "All Americans were vividly reminded in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 of the critical role our firefighters, police and other emergency responders play in safeguarding our communities. We are working in Congress to get our brave firefighters and other emergency personnel the resources they desperately need for better training, newer equipment and fire prevention programs."

The grant, authorized by a law passed by Congress in October of 2000, is distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Leeds Fire Department applied for the grant earlier this year. The application was reviewed by the U.S. Fire Administration and seven fire service organizations before approval.

The law under which the grant is authorized (the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act), enables the federal government to provide up to 90 percent of the cost of training and new equipment that protect firefighters and the community. The local communities provide the remaining 10 percent of the cost.